

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Spectrum Printing Company LLC

#### Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Spectrum Printing Explores The Facets Of Lean Manufacturing

##### Client Profile:

Spectrum Printing is a small, 19-employee, state-of-the-art, six-color print shop serving high-end manufacturing and marketing applications, and providing integrated mailing services to customers in the southwestern United States. The company has been in business for over 16 years in Tucson, Arizona.

##### Situation:

Spectrum Printing needed a way to distinguish its products and services from any number of other printers in a highly competitive commodity industry. It saw lean manufacturing as a way to increase its quality to allow service of high-end clientele, such as the aerospace industry. By implementing lean, the company also hoped to reduce its cost structure to ensure competitiveness against print shops in the region and in nearby Mexico. Spectrum's CEO, George Stewart, was introduced to the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Arizona MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, through a CEO Forum chaired by an Arizona MEP representative.

##### Solution:

Arizona MEP arranged for Mr. Stewart to attend a public presentation of Principles of Lean Manufacturing (Lean 101) with hands-on TimeWise simulation. After attending this session, Mr. Stewart asked Arizona MEP to follow-up with an additional Introduction to Lean Manufacturing session, featuring case study companies that have already implemented lean techniques. Arizona MEP also introduced Spectrum Printing to the City of Tucson Office of Economic Development, which helped Spectrum Printing to write and submit an application for Arizona Job Training Grant funds.

As a result of assistance from Arizona MEP, Spectrum Printing has begun its lean enterprise transformation. Working with Arizona MEP, Spectrum has developed a plan to implement 5S Workplace Organization and Standardization techniques throughout the plant, and to develop value stream maps to describe the plant's current state, future state, and implementation path to achieve its vision. Spectrum Printing was awarded an Arizona Job Training Grant in the amount of \$18,000, a portion of which will help it to implement these plans over the next year.

##### Results:

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

Received basic lean manufacturing training.

Applied for and received a training job grant for \$18,000 to implement workforce development programs.

Planning several facility improvement projects.

### **Testimonial:**

"We now fully understand the value of lean transformation and the important benefits of the techniques covered when applied to our manufacturing process. Further, we believe these new values will be key for positioning our firm to meet the pressures of regional and south-of-the-border competition in the future."

George Stewart, Owner and President